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CONGRESSMAN ED CASE
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

ISLANDS OF HAWAII, MAUI, KAHOLAWE, LANAI,
MOLOKA'I, O'AHU (WINDWARD, NORTH SHORE,
CENTRAL, LEEWARD), KAUAI AND NI'HAU,
AND NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

May 2, 2005

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AND TECHNOLOGY

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Manila, the Philippines

Dear Madam President:

I sincerely appreciate your recent letter congratulating me on my re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives. As the Congressman representing more Americans of Filipino ancestry than any of my colleagues in the entire U.S. House, I particularly welcome your invitation to work collectively toward the mutual benefit of our two great countries and peoples.

I especially share your commitment to maintaining and improving, wherever and whenever possible, the ties that bind us. Our countries have a multitude of mutual interests, ranging from security to economic vitality to educational and cultural interchange. You can depend on my efforts in the U.S. Congress to that end.

There are several initiatives currently in Congress by me and like-minded colleagues which relate to that overall goal. Foremost among them are full and fair justice to our Filipino veterans of the Second World War, and a fairer immigration policy for my country which retains necessary homeland security requirements while allowing for reduction in waiting lists and family reunification especially in humanitarian situations. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your mission to the United States on these and related efforts.

On a broader note, 2006 marks the centennial of the first significant immigration in 1906 from the Philippines to the United States, specifically to Hawaii and my district in particular. In that century, my country has seen our Filipino-American population grow to over 2.3 million citizens residing nationwide and contributing immeasurably in all walks of American life.

As part of that celebration, our Smithsonian Institution is convening the Filipino American Centennial Commemoration of 2006 to highlight the history and progress of this great community. The Smithsonian is working closely with the Hawaii State Commission on the Filipino American Centennial, which is planning a yearlong program of commemorative events throughout Hawaii. This is certainly a most opportune time for you to again visit our country and my Hawaii, and I look forward to the opportunity to join my Filipino American constituents and all of Hawaii's people in hosting you during our celebration.

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

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Finally, I do look forward to the opportunity to personally discuss and work with you on matters of mutual interest. We met too briefly during your 2003 trip to Washington, D.C., and I have looked for opportunities to join Congressional delegations to the Philippines so that I can again visit the homeland of so many of Hawaii's people and consider issues with you and your administration and others in greater depth. I will continue to do so, and would certainly welcome any other opportunities of which you may be aware.

Again, thank you for your kind words, and for your commitment to public service and to our mutual interests. I look forward to continuing to work with you and to our next meeting.

With aloha,

Ed Case

ED CASE
United States Congressman
Hawai'i, Second District